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this laboratory are the study of the influence of current density and concentration upon the course of chemical reactions, the application of gas analysis to the study of the latter (in the formation of hypochlorites and chlorates), ion transference (in the electrolysis of dilute sulphuric acid or sodium hydrate) with a diaphragm, formation of persulphuric acid (influence of concentration, of current density, of temperature), metal precipitations with soluble and insoluble anodes, the introduction of aid-reactions, experiments with molten electrolytes, experiments with multipolar electrodes, the determination and separation of metals,



the electrolysis of a series of organic compounds (reduction and synthesis), etc.

The writer is indebted and under many obligations for this installation to Provost Harrison who provided the necessary funds.

In conclusion it may be said that in a second room close by there is also provision for work at high temperatures. A Moissan and two Borscher's furnaces are used for this purpose. They are in direct connection with a 50-horse-power dynamo and are furnished with satisfactory resistance and measuring instruments. They are applied in the reduction of oxides, in the electrolysis of fixed salts, the production of alloys, etc.

The two laboratories afford all that is essential to acquaint the student with the fundamentals of electrochemistry, and give him also ample facilities for research in this domain of chemical science.

EDGAR F. SMITH.

LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITION OF SCIENTIFIC WORK.

IT is not often that SCIENCE has the opportunity of chronicling an event such as happened at Madison, Wis., on March 27th, when the Legislature of the State in open session presented to Dr. S. M. Babcock, of the University of Wisconsin, a beautiful



bronze medal 'recognizing the great value to the people of this State and the whole world' of his inventions and discoveries, 'and his unselfish dedication of these inventions to the public service.'

Governments such as ours are not prone to recognize deeds of scientific men, but the service rendered in this connection was of such value that the State has honored itself by paying honor to the man who refused to take out a patent on his invention, but gave it freely and willingly to the people.

Dr. Babcock's discoveries in the field of agricultural science have been many,

but the development of his system of rapidly determining the amount of butter fat in milk has practically revolutionized the dairy industry. It saved the system of factory dairying from destruction by giving a method for the equitable division of moneys earned, and its rapid extension into all dairy countries of the world has contributed much to the renown of American science in other parts of the earth.

The recognition of Dr. Babcock's services by the State of Wisconsin is not confined to such narrow geographical limits. Although not an exhibitor, last year he was awarded the Grand Prix d'Honneur at the Paris Exposition. Recently the dairy-men of New Zealand have sent him a beautiful testimonial in the shape of an elegantly bound hand-painted album of New Zealand scenery.

Dr. Babcock's fame as an inventor rests largely upon his milk test, but to men of science, who are familiar with dairy and agricultural investigations, his many discoveries in these fields are regarded as even more brilliant and of more value to science than the invention for which he is now honored.

*SPRING MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

THE spring meeting of the Council was held in the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club on the afternoon of April 17, 1901. There was a larger attendance of members than is usual at the spring meeting.

The permanent secretary presented a report upon the operations of his office since the midwinter meeting of the Council, including with this a report of the committee appointed at the midwinter meeting and empowered to act upon the applications for membership received in the interim between the midwinter and spring meetings. The report of the committee was

very encouraging. It seems that by means of letters signed by the president and the permanent secretary, and addressed to teachers of science in the universities and collegiate institutions of the country, a large number of new members has been added to the rolls of the Association. Further, local committees have been formed at several hundred points in the United States, and empowered by the president and permanent secretary to make an effort to increase the number of members in their several localities. As a result of this work 540 new members have been elected since last Christmas, a number of these being very prominent men of science, who, although formerly members of the Association, had for one reason or another allowed the membership to lapse.

The general condition of the Association was reported to be admirable. In point of number of members the high-water mark was reached in 1891 at the Washington meeting, when there were 2,054 members on the rolls of the Association. At the present time the actual membership of the Association paid up to January 1, 1901, is in the neighborhood of 2,350 while about 100 additional members have been recently elected, but have not yet completed membership.

The permanent secretary further reported that the arrangement with the journal *SCIENCE* is apparently giving perfect satisfaction and is greatly helping the Association in many ways.

The arrangements for the Denver meeting were reported to be progressing favorably. Local committees in Denver are organizing and a railroad rate of one fare plus two dollars west of Chicago has already been gained. No definite conclusions have been reached by the passenger associations east of Chicago, but it is expected that the details will be settled and that the preliminary announcement concerning the meeting will